

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

For Release March 19, 1971

Carroll 343-5634

### PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON WILDERNESS STUDIES IN GEORGIA, NORTH DAKOTA

Public hearings to discuss the results of wilderness studies involving national wildlife refuge areas are scheduled in Georgia and North Dakota, the Interior Department announced today.

Specific times and the areas involved are:

- I. Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia, 5,618 acres, hearing 9 a.m., March 25, McIntosh County Courthouse, Darien, Ga. Notice of hearing published in Federal Register Jan. 23.

Blackbeard Island Refuge is approximately 18 miles offshore from the south Georgia coast, bounded on the south and east by the Atlantic Ocean and on the north and west by Sapelo Sound and Sapelo Island.

The refuge is a wintering area for nearly 20,000 waterfowl and is used during the summer months by nesting shore birds. Loggerhead sea turtle nest along the beaches and American alligator are abundant in fresh water ponds. Visitors use the island for salt water and fresh water fishing, for archery hunting for deer, and for shelling, birding, and sightseeing. Blackbeard's varied environment includes virgin pine and live oak forest.

A map and other information about the study is available from the Refuge Manager, Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, Route 1, Hardeeville, S.C. 29927, or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Peachtree-Seventh Building, Atlanta, Ga. 30323.

Oral or written statements may be submitted at the hearing or written comments can be sent to the Bureau's regional director by May 10, when the hearing record will be closed.

- II. Wolf Island National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia, 538 acres, hearing 2 p.m., March 25, McIntosh County Courthouse, Darien, Ga. Notice of hearing published in Federal Register Jan. 23.

Wolf Island is 10 miles offshore from Darien, lying at the entrance to Altamaha Sound. The refuge is a marsh estuary important to migratory waterfowl, loggerhead turtles, marine fish, and people. Primarily it is a narrow strip of ocean beach backed by a broader band of salt marsh. Visitors use the area for boating, fishing, and sightseeing.

Information about the Wolf Island Wilderness proposal is available from the Refuge Manager, Wolf Island National Wildlife Refuge, Route 1, Hardeeville, S.C. 29927, or from the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Peachtree-Seventh Building, Atlanta, Ga. 30323.

Oral or written statements can be presented at the hearing, while written comments can be sent to the Atlanta regional office by May 9.

III. Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota,  
4,155 acres, hearing 7:30 p.m., April 7, Ottertail Power  
Company Community Room, Jamestown, N. Dak. Notice of  
hearing published in Federal Register Feb. 2.

The proposal includes Chase Lake and a fringe of surrounding lands typical of Coteau Country's prairie pothole terrain. The refuge contains the largest white pelican colony in the world and provides habitat for thousands of cormorants, gulls, and shore birds.

A map and other information about the Chase Lake wilderness proposal is available from the Refuge Manager, Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge, Edmunds, N. Dak. 58434, or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Federal Building, Fort Snelling, Twin Cities, Minn. 55111.

Oral or written statements may be submitted at the hearing or written comments can be sent to the regional director at the above address by May 22, 1971.

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